

**FOND DU LAC COUNTY HEALTH DEPT.  
WATER LAB DEPT.**

**DIRECTIONS FOR COLLECTION OF WATER SAMPLES  
FOR ANALYSIS BY THE FOND DU LAC COUNTY  
LABORATORY**

**WATER TESTING INFORMATION:**

- Complete water testing form accurately
- Cost- \$21.00 fee for Bacteria Test  
\$19.00 fee for Nitrate test
- Cash or Check-payable to Fond du Lac County Treasurer
- Laboratory Hours:  
Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday  
8:00 to 4:00 PM
- A sterile sample bottle from the Health Department or Certified Laboratory is required for collection of the sample.
- Collect sample just prior to delivery to lab. Test results may not be valid if sample is received at lab more than 24 hours after collection.
- Fond du Lac County Lab may dispose of records after 5 years.

**CONTACT:**

Fond du Lac County Health Department  
G. Smedema, R.S., Laboratory Director  
160 South Macy Street  
Fond du Lac WI 54935  
920.929.3085

**PLEASE FOLLOW INSTRUCTIONS CAREFULLY**

Careless collection procedures may cause “Unsafe” results.

**Sampling Instructions:**

1. Locate a sample tap nearest the well-pressure tank taps are best locations.
2. Avoid plastic, swing, leaky or gooseneck faucets. Remove any facet attachments, filter, aerator, gasket, screen or hose.
3. If possible, sterilize metal taps by heating with a flame, propane torch. Heat until the tap is hot (approx.. 20 sec.). Move the flame continuously to prevent damage to tap. **Avoid this step with plastic taps.** Butane lighters and candles do not provide sufficient heat or sterilization.
4. Open the valve and allow the water to run at medium flow for at least 8-10 minutes. **Do not** change the flow rate; **do not** shut off the tap or **do not** wipe the tap. Be sure all traces of previously chlorinated water are absent.
5. With the water flowing – carefully remove and dispose bottle seal. Open bottle cap. **Do not** touch the bottle top or inside of cap. A small amount of white powder may be noted in the bottle – **do not** rinse or shake powder from bottle. **Do not** set the cap down, to avoid contamination.
6. Holding the bottle in one hand the cap in the other – fill to the top, over the lines. Insufficient amounts will not yield accurate results.
7. Quickly replace cap and tighten. Keep sample cool-refrigerate- **do not** freeze.
8. Complete Water Testing Form information accurately.
9. Promptly deliver sample bottle and completed form to:  
Health Dept Lab, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, 160 South Macy Street  
Fond du Lac WI.

**What do test results mean?**

This bacteriological test is used to determine safe drinking water.

“Safe” means no coliform bacteria are present and sample is bacteriologically safe. Consider testing the well again in a year or sooner if you notice a sudden change in taste, color or odor.

“Unsafe” means that coliform bacteria are present. Coliform bacteria are a microorganism that are found in surface water and soil. Their presence in a water sample indicates a potential pathway for fecal wastes and other disease causing organisms to enter your well. The presence of E. coli in a water sample indicates evidence of human or animal fecal contamination of the well. Both coliform and bacteria and E. coli indicate the water is potentially dangerous, a health risk and an alternative source of drinking water is recommended. Submitting a second sample is suggested when receiving “unsafe” results. If the second sample is also “Unsafe” corrective actions such as checking the sanitary defects and disinfection of the well are recommended.